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4303 '99 JUN 21 A10:38 June 14, 1999

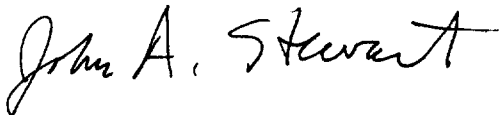
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food"

I cannot believe that you are seriously considering allowing the public to consume irradiated food that is not **clearly labeled** as such. I urge you to make sure that the public is always fully informed about what they may be eating.

Perhaps you are worried about some "irrational" fear among the public that would cause them to not eat food with the word "radiation" associated with it. Yet you may believe that it will actually make food safer and the public will benefit from its use. I personally have reservations about irradiation of food, but these could be overcome with sufficient exposure to solid information. This will certainly take time and money, but it should be expended by those who will benefit financially from this new technology--the food processing corporations. **I urge you to NOT make a decision that deprives the public from its right to know and reduces the moral obligations of corporations to justify the safety of their products to the consumers of their products.**

Sincerely,

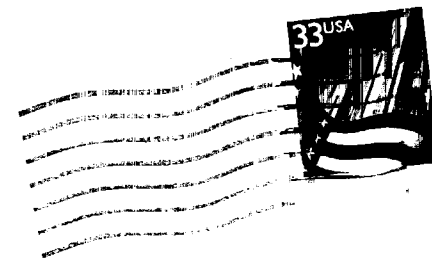


John A. Stewart
Associate Professor

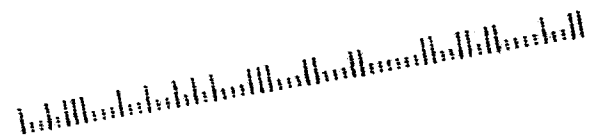
P.S. I teach courses in "Science, Technology, & Society" and will be listing this issue as a possible student project/paper topic. I hope that I will find that you have decided to trust the public.

98N-1038

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